



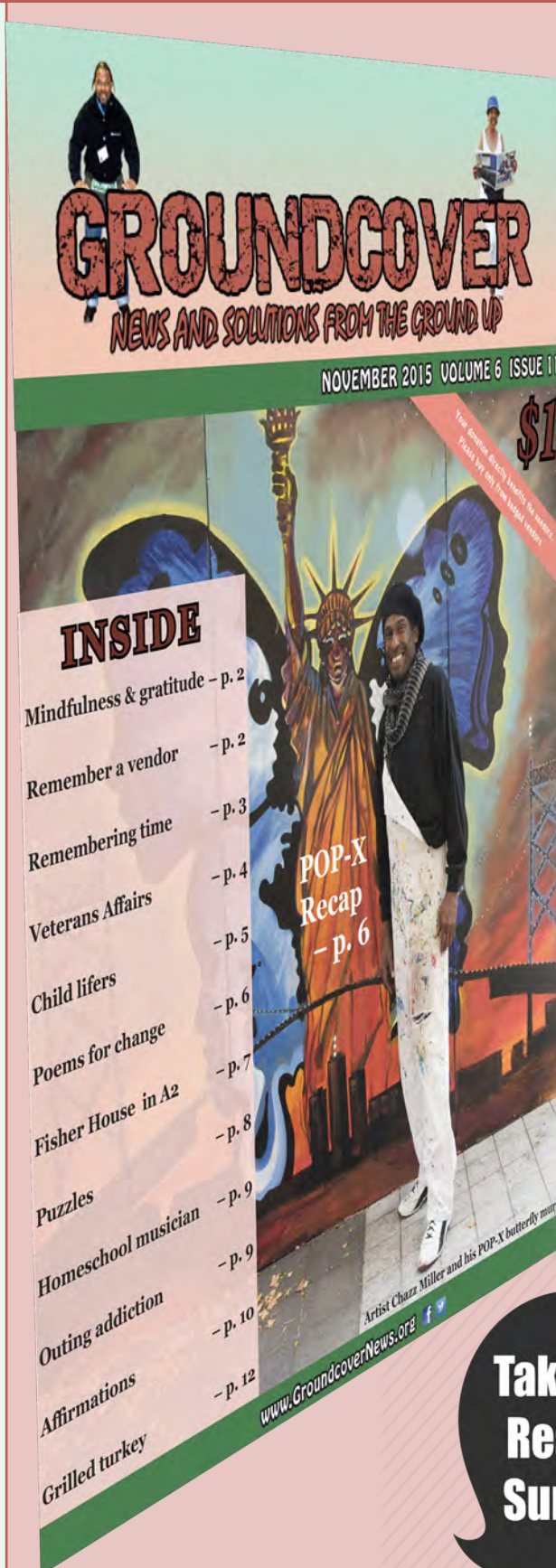
# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

SEPTEMBER 2016 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 9

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-- p. 2

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## Price increase, format change... what do you think readers?



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

Many longtime readers have discerned that change is in the air around Groundcover News. While volunteers continue to play a crucial role in our day-to-day functioning and the writing and production of the newspaper, we are now paying people to provide more consistency and reliability in our critical roles. Happily, these people have been vendors and/or long-time low-income volunteers and we are delighted to be adding to their employment opportunities. However, this creates some financial strain.

Some of the Groundcover News vendors and volunteers have suggested

that we raise the price of Groundcover News to a level that it is more in line with other street papers. This would enhance both the ability of our vendors to support themselves and the financial viability of the organization. Most street papers charge their customers between two and five dollars per issue and charge their vendors between 50 cents and two dollars per paper or magazine.

What we don't want is to create conditions that would prevent dedicated readers from purchasing Groundcover on a regular basis.

If we were to make such a change, we

might also repackage Groundcover. Possibilities include changing to a magazine format, increasing the number of pages printed and introducing new kinds of content.

**Please let us know what you think we should do and how the various changes would affect your purchases. The simplest way to give us your feedback is to take our Reader Survey, accessible from the Groundcover homepage at [groundcovernews.org](http://groundcovernews.org). You may also send us feedback by email to [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com) or text to 734-707-9210. Thank you in advance!**

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## Meeting goals – a vendor update

by Kevin Spangler  
Groundcover Vendor #307

I got a driving under the influence (DUI) citation right around the time I found out I was having a baby at 33 years old. I resisted arrest, which is considered a serious crime. So I was looking at some time in jail. I knew I was having a kid so I decided to just do jail time and not play the probation game for the next five years.

The judge, probation officer and public defender blessed me with a six-month sentence. In that time, I sat down and had time to reflect and rewire my brain to be a positive member of society. My idea was to work for the local pedicab business but they never answered my calls while I was in the shelter. So I worked three minimum-wage jobs and sold Groundcover News to save up to buy my first pedicab in March.

I started out working as much as I could. I was not making any money but I was determined to be successful. I worked long hours every day, giving free rides to everyone who was interested in trying a brand-new business in town. I eventually started making money because I was filling a need for short transfers around town with an entertainment aspect.

A second chance is what I got with this business. Not having a license and being a convicted felon, the only jobs I could get paid minimum wage. I knew that to take care of my family and for my girlfriend to be able to care for our baby full-time, I had to figure out a way to make a living wage.

I recently signed a lease for a one-bedroom apartment, so now my family can live under one roof. This is a huge milestone – being able to save up enough money for move-in costs and finding someone who will rent to a felon.

I now have seven pedicabs and have



Baby Romando loves riding in his daddy's pedicab.

created second chances for people in recovery while preventing people from getting behind the wheel after they've been drinking. The premise of my business is that we work on donations and all donations go to grow and expand the business to create jobs for people in recovery.

My collaborative view with the city is a vision of fewer cars in the downtown area. With more and more new housing going up in Ann Arbor, we at Boober Tours are filling a much-needed alternative, fun mode of transportation.

Groundcover has offered all of their sales team a Financial Empowerment class as part of their Matched Savings program. I jumped on the opportunity to be a part of this class. We are learning about credit repair, saving, how to document spending, and allocating your money properly.

Now that I am up to seven pedicabs I need to plan wisely around where money goes,

and need savings for repairs since these pedicabs are on the road at least eight hours a day. These Michigan roads put a beating on them. The financial empowerment class is teaching us how to set goals, which is very helpful in anyone's spending plan. Goals are so important in everyone's life.

My son, Romando, is six months old. He is crawling everywhere and he standing up now. His favorite things are my sunglasses and keys. He is very sociable and loves to laugh at everything. He loves riding on the pedicabs with his daddy. He is always the first one to test ride the pedicabs. I can see his genius IQ and his high EQ (emotional quotient) coming out, so I am on pace to meeting my goals.

### GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

*Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.*

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## Wisdom from Goldilocks on approaching new situations



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell  
Groundcover Contributor

I love the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. I always have. Perhaps I felt some kinship with the tale as a young child. I was often in a position then of making choices and decisions on my own and I set out on my share of adventures. Maybe the story was embedded for me in the three handmade Adirondack chairs in our backyard. They were painted white and red – the large one, the medium one, and the wee one. When I looked at them, I imagined the three bears sitting there when they weren't at home in the woodlands of upstate New York where I spent my younger years.

We are each familiar with the challenge of distinguishing among what is too big, too small, or just right. While standing in the lunch line at an event earlier this summer, I watched a woman ahead of me hang her bag on one of the

numerous hooks lined up on a long coat rack. In a few seconds she repositioned it on a second hook. Once more she moved it to a third hook where she finally left it.

I couldn't resist responding and said to her, "Oh, you are in Goldilocks mode." After a pause, she smiled and replied, "Well yes, I guess I am."

*Goldilocks*, like many old stories, has expanded into rich retellings over decades. *Deep in the Forest* is a wordless picture book with exquisite pencil drawings and a fun plot reversal. Goldilocks and her family go out for a walk. Meanwhile an inquisitive young bear enters their cabin and proceeds to try everything out.

*The Three Snow Bears* is set in the Arctic. A young Inuit girl is separated from her sled dogs as they drift off on an ice flow. In her attempt to get to them, she comes upon an igloo. Its inhabitants, three polar bears, are outside somewhere waiting for their breakfast to cool. They end up rescuing her dogs only to find her fast asleep in their smallest bed after trying all their

boots and their soup.

Various versions are rich, but the fundamental rhythm of too big, too small, just right – or too hot, too cold, just right, or too hard, too soft, just right – remains intact.

A new school year is beginning to unfold around us. Whether we are students and teachers returning to school or not, this time of year reminds us all of the experiences we've had around new classes, relationships, jobs, responsibilities, understandings, attitudes, moves, health realities, circumstances, neighborhoods, skill sets and more.

Facing the new, we try to figure out that reoccurring dilemma of too much, too little, just right; or too early, too late, just right; or too close, too far, just right.

Approaching the untried we're not sure who we are or what we're to do. We experiment. It's uncomfortable. We break things.

"Why," we wonder, "didn't we know better?" Before any of us find ourselves wound into the tightest of knots, we could remember a young girl in a bear's forest home or igloo. What did she do? She lay down and rested. There are moments when it's life-giving and wise to lighten up. Getting a grip on the new is a matter of trial and error. Don't be afraid of the unnerving rhythm of too big, too little, or maybe just right!

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## Play about abortion experience challenges divide

by Persephone Hernandez-Vogt  
Groundcover Contributor

This September, the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre will open its doors for “Out of Silence: Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign,” presented by the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) at the University of Michigan (U of M). The play has never before been performed in the state of Michigan.

“Out of Silence” uses vignettes to explore the different situations and perspectives of individuals considering an abortion. It is the product of the 1 in 3 Campaign, which seeks to fight the stigmatization and shaming of abortions by encouraging those who pursue them to share their stories.

Using 400 stories collected over the years, the 1 in 3 Campaign approached a number of playwrights and asked them to capture the accounts. Brittany Batell, the project organizer for the Ann Arbor production of the play, described the unique artistic qualities that the script’s multiple authorship generates: “Out of that cacophony of voices comes this very lovely mosaic of experience.”

These voices add nuance to the conversation surrounding abortion, Batell explained. “We forget that there are people, there are relationships, who have to consider this in very concrete ways in their own lives. This play showcases this magnificently.”

Rowan Rendstrom-Richards, who is co-directing the show with fellow U of M student Katrina Hamann, feels similarly. “[Abortion] has been a hot button topic in politics, but it hasn’t been humanized,” she said. “Out of Silence” accomplishes this by detailing a range



The cast of “Out of Silence: Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign” reads through the script.

of experiences and circumstances: “Bringing the diversity of situations, of stories, out ... is the most powerful part of this campaign and of using theater in this campaign, because [the stories are] all different.”

The Ann Arbor production emerges from the work of MOASH. Batell began working on the theater project during her internship with the organization. A dual Master’s student in Social Work and Public Health at the University of Michigan with a background in acting, she was excited to combine her interests and send a message about reproductive justice. “I’m a big theater person and I think theater can be so influential as a medium for health advocacy,” she explained.

Batell envisions the play as part of a conversation, not as an echo chamber for those who support abortion services. She recently performed in “The Vagina Monologues,” which inspired her to delve deeper into theater as a social justice project. “That was a beautiful introduction to this idea of theater

with a purpose, theater with a message,” she said.

While working on “The Vagina Monologues,” Batell noticed that much of the audience was already very supportive of feminism. “And that’s great, it’s important to host these things that continue to fuel and inspire people in new ways,” she said. “However, the real change comes if you’ve got some people on the fence, who maybe don’t buy into feminism and maybe aren’t sure how they feel about it... It’s harder to get those audiences [engaged].”

With “Out of Silence,” she hopes to reach people on all sides of the issue and to have them be a part of the discussion. “It’s more important to broaden someone’s understanding than to get someone to change their mind.”

Rendstrom-Richards acknowledged that the single-issue focus and discursive nature of the play troubles some people. “I’ve had a lot of disinterest or [people asking me], ‘Do you think it’s a good idea to specifically target social justice when so many shows do that

without saying that they’re doing that?’” she said.

Actor Paul Mayer responded to Rendstrom-Richards’ interpretation of critics, arguing, “At a certain level, you can’t make theater that’s socially aware without having it also appeal to an artistic sensibility. It has to be appealing, it has to be engaging, it has to be aesthetically good in some way. There’s a level where you need both to get your message across. I think people can appreciate that.”

Mayer, who plays Eric in a vignette called “Big Life Things,” says the work of theater has altered his perception of abortion. Although he has been pro-choice “for as long as I’ve had a voice to voice these opinions,” the medical procedure always seemed abstract to him. “But this show has brought it out of this odd, shrouded political realm and brought it into my own life,” he explained, “made it something that is immediate, that is tangible, and that doesn’t scare my pants off anymore. When I think about it now, it doesn’t freak me out. It just is.”

In addition to the script, MOASH’s production will include an original slam poem written by one of the actors. There will be a talkback after the performance.

“Out of Silence: Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign,” presented by the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) at the University of Michigan, will be performed on Friday, September 16 at 8 p.m. at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. More information can be found at [bit.ly/outofsilencemi](http://bit.ly/outofsilencemi).

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## Deaf Michigan man sues Benton Harbor movie theater for discrimination

by Angie Martell and Wes Resendes  
Groundcover Contributors

Graham Forsey wants to enjoy movies with others at his local Benton Harbor theater, Celebration! Cinema. He cannot, as he is deaf and the theater has yet to provide closed captioning, despite numerous requests that they do so. In the Ann Arbor area, Quality 16 and Rave Cinemas both provide personal closed captioning systems. The Michigan and State Theaters do not offer any accommodation, but increasing accessibility is part of their long-term plan.

Recently, Ann Arbor firm Iglesia Martell joined forces with the National Association of the Deaf – a civil rights organization advocating for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community – and Michael Steven Stein, an attorney with Stein & Vargas, LLP, to file a lawsuit on behalf of Forsey. Forsey, a deaf individual residing in St. Joseph, sued Loeks Theaters, Inc., owner of Celebration! Cinemas, for discrimination against deaf moviegoers by not providing captioning on any of the movies it shows in its Benton Harbor location.

Forsey's claim is that by not including captioning on all their movies (other Celebration! Cinema locations are equipped with these technologies), Loeks is excluding Deaf and Hard of Hearing moviegoers from the American tradition of going to the cinema, since they are unable to understand the audio content of the movie.

Forsey has recounted: "When friends invite me to Celebration! Cinema, I so want to go with them but I have to decline. I miss out on the wonderful experience that is going to the movies."

The theater's oversight has also opened Loeks to a charge that they are in violation of Title III of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Title III of this federal law requires that all places of public accommodation be accessible to persons with disabilities, including movie theaters. Under this law, a movie theater, and any public accommodation, cannot deny participation or offer unequal or separate benefit to individuals with disabilities.

In an August 15 press statement, Loeks Theaters VP of Marketing and Public Relations, Steve VanWagoner, assured the public that steps are being taken to address this problem.

*We're fully aware of the issues surrounding this complaint and new technologies will help resolve it very soon. ... Celebration! Cinema is committed to continuing to improve services for all of our guests, and we are looking forward to the approval of these [upcoming National Association of Theatre Owners] standards so we can continue to invest in closed captioning technology. Currently, we have assisted listening devices in all locations and closed captioning in our Grand Rapids and Lansing, MI markets. Benton Harbor and other locations will receive captioning equipment in the coming months upon the adoption of the new*

standards.

Captioning at movie theaters is not a new practice or technologically prohibitive, as hundreds, if not thousands, of movie theaters around the country provide captioning. The following methods are commonly employed:

**Open Captions** – The captions are encoded onto the movie image itself and visible to the entire audience. This is the most popular option with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, as its members do not have to deal with any of the downsides of the following technologies.

**Rear View or Personal Closed Captioning** – The captions are projected into a plastic panel mounted on a flexible pole that the user places in a cup holder. The movie goer must angle the pane into position to see the captions and the movie image simultaneously. This technology is falling out of favor due to the difficulty of establishing a line of vision that allows the user to simultaneously read the captions on the pane and

view the ongoing imagery on the movie screen.

**Captioning Glasses** – Debuting in 2013, this new technology is similar to 3-D glasses in that the user wears glasses that come with miniature projectors on both sides that project the caption onto the glasses and appear about 10 feet away in the user's field of vision. This technology has garnered mixed reviews from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, as the glasses are bulky and are not comfortably worn with prescription eyeglasses.

The aforementioned captioning technologies serve a different purpose than assistive listening technologies, such as personal headphones or audio loops, which only serve to amplify sound but do not translate sound into text for those unable to understand aural information through sound.

Loeks did not caption any of the five popular movies it showed on August 2,

see **DISCRIMINATION**, page 11



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## Back to School – ABCs for all children

by Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka “Lit”  
Groundcover Vendor #159

September marks the start of school for most children across the country. In the State of Michigan, homeless children will fill up a portion of classroom seats. One has to wonder whether or not the All-American guarantee of a free public education is even realized by a child in these circumstances.

Even with the best policies and intentions, recognizing and servicing the child who is experiencing homelessness is not a simple task. I am personally still haunted by how many times I may have missed this child during the years that I spent teaching in the classroom. Was it the child who excelled in all her work, never missing assignments? Or one of the many who ignored every homework assignment? Was it the one who sat in the back of the classroom, in the middle, the front?

The website [www.classroomcaboodle.com](http://www.classroomcaboodle.com), hosted by Betsy Wiegler, shares some valuable insights. It says, for instance, that the child lacking school supplies or missing a sock is an obvious sign of homelessness. Yet there is the child who may be well-dressed and does not appear homeless at all. In these cases, parents make a concerted effort to mask their circumstances by dressing the child exceptionally well. Wiegler recalls the case where a single mom used the bulk of her meager resources to dress her child in fashionable attire, in an effort to hide the fact that they were living in a tent just outside of town.

A recently published article by the American Psychological Association reveals the trauma that results from a child experiencing homelessness:

Homeless children confront serious threats to their ability to succeed and their future well-being. Of particular



Lit tutors a student at the Ann Arbor Public Library.

concern are health problems, hunger, poor nutrition, developmental delays, anxiety, depression, behavioral problems, and educational underachievement.

But while the homeless child can display behavior problems in the classroom, she may also be the one who excels academically and has model behavior. The ABC television program “America Strong” featured such a young man who graduated as valedictorian after citing that his ambition for obtaining superior grades was that he realized that it was his only opportunity to a better life. He recalls going to school with nothing to eat and the challenge of taking important exams while hungry. His story of hunger is far from unique in the world I inhabit.

After having to live my life basically on the streets for over three years, I have witnessed children born into homelessness. I have seen the formative years of babies marked by instability and poor nutrition. As an individual and an educator, it has been heart-wrenching. While I was unable to always recognize that child during the many years in the

classroom, my trek on the streets gave me insight.

Signing up to work as a substitute teacher a couple of years ago, I saw a child that I knew was in an undesirable living situation. At first it was a gnawing recognition that was so similar to my own recent experience. In a child’s way, she was the person that I had become.

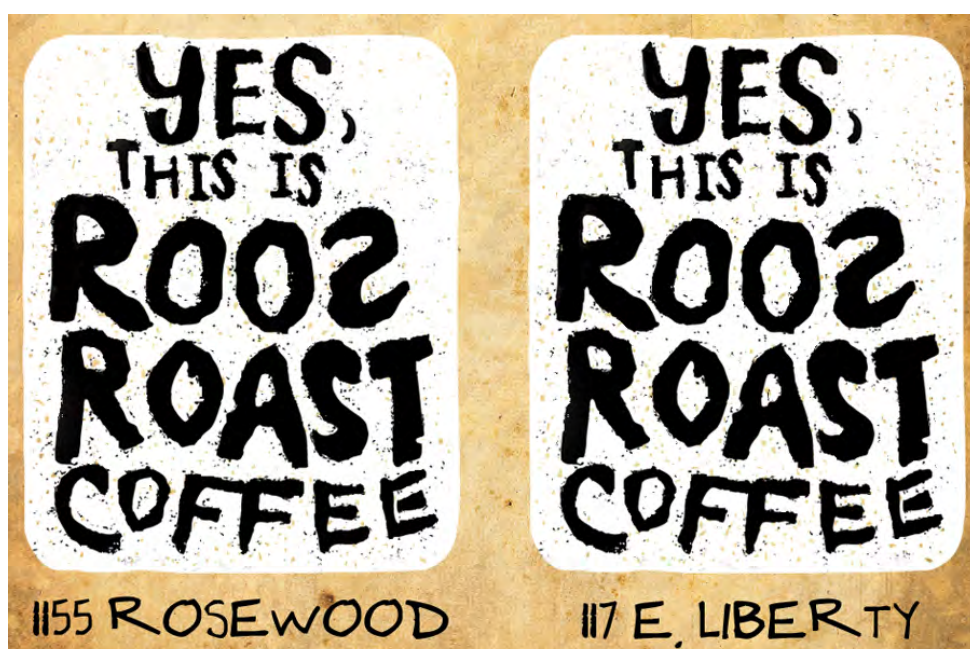
As I recall, during snack time in her preschool class, her small hands reached out and took more than twice her share of the segmented fruit and placed them around her plate. At barely four years of age, she could not suppress the urge to grab all the food she could when it was in her sight – to forage with an almost animalistic instinct to hoard for another day. I winced when the teacher assistant scolded her, pointing out that she

always takes more than she needs.

My feeble attempt to defend her outweighed the teacher assistant’s assessment of her as being a “bad” child. I knew that all the scolding and reprimanding this child would not suffice for what she really needed. I knew that she was experiencing the food insecurity that is so common among families experiencing homelessness and poverty, where hunger is never quite satisfied.

Since that day, people have asked me whether or not I plan to return to teaching. I remember that day and think, *how could I?* I see things now that my 25 years of classroom experience never could have revealed. It is heart-wrenching to see a child reading two grades below grade-level because her family has had to spend more effort on survival than on education. To see the lack of stable housing rob a child of her creativity, childhood innocence and zest for life. To hear reports that nearly 25 percent of our children nationwide are experiencing life akin to those who lived through The Great Depression.

My commitment now is to those children and their families – to ensure that during their days, months, or years of housing instability, they do not miss out on the fundamental foundation of an education and enrichment opportunities. My mission is to ensure that they have hope for the future, and that through their success they will someday change the world of housing instability that has too long plagued our society.



# Give where You Live

Each year, the Kiwanis Thrift Sale of Ann Arbor serves more than 40,000 local youth. Start the new year off with a good deed by making a financial contribution, becoming a volunteer member, or donating thrift sale items.

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102 N. Staebler Rd. at W. Jackson Rd.

## Michigan Works! helps workers and businesses find each other

by Susan Beckett

Michigan Works! is a government agency whose purpose is promoting the economic vitality of people, businesses and the community. It accomplishes this by connecting individuals who are seeking work and businesses looking for talent, as well as providing resources for both. It is also where all people hoping to collect unemployment benefits must go to get their applications stamped and post their resumes as they actively look for a new job. (Benefits actually come from the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency, not Michigan Works!)

Onsite job coaches help with preparing and fine-tuning resumes as well as finding likely job prospects. Michigan Works! even helps some of the job seekers enhance their skills to meet needs in the business community. One of the most popular ways to do this is subsidizing the wages of new employees while they receive on-the-job training. Another that has been especially popular here is county-financed paid internships.

There are weekly workshops on writing resumes, interviewing, job searching, networking and other activities for job seekers. They also help workers keep their jobs through upskilling. Michigan Works! finances the education and training of current employees to help them meet the changing skill demands at their workplace.

There are special youth programs designed for job seekers aged 16-24 which offer additional services. Along with GED programs, tuition, book and child care subsidies, services such as



A Michigan Works! coach helps a drop-in job seeker update her resume.

one-on-one coaching and transportation assistance are available. This past summer, Michigan Works! teamed up with the Washtenaw County Sheriff and the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Chamber of Congress in the Summer16 employment project that placed 46 youth in area businesses, where they learned job skills while being paid nine dollars per hour by the County.

Mike Wilkenson is a job coach who sets up shop at the Delonis Center on Thursdays and Fridays to help current and former residents, as well as those receiving case management services from the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, prepare for and secure employment. He has lists of business opportunities tailored to this population, all within 15 miles of Delonis and located on the bus lines; subsidized transportation is available

for shifts when public transportation is not an option. He has a list of about 60 jobs listed by employers who will hire returned citizens who served time for felonies.

One of his most successful mentees was Preston, who had served 22-and-a-half years in prison prior to being released into Ypsilanti where he didn't know anyone. Wilkenson found a trucking company that said it would hire Preston if he had a commercial driving license (CDL). That enabled Wilkenson to secure funding for Preston's tuition to attend CDL classes and take the exam, which he passed.

However, the trucking company withdrew the job offer because they found the cost of insuring Preston to be too high. Undeterred, Preston created his own company, Majestic Transportation, which transports people to and from appointments. His business has been so successful that he is now ready to buy a second van and hire another driver.

Some of Wilkenson's other clients needed so many accommodations that he has not been able to find work for them.

For example, one client needed to frequently prop up his leg, be located near a bathroom and couldn't work with the public due to a variety of conditions. It is extremely difficult – but not impossible – to find work for people who can only work intermittently.

The Michigan Works! Business Services staff provides parallel services to potential employers. [Pure Michigan Talent Connect](http://www.mitalent.org) ([www.mitalent.org](http://www.mitalent.org)) is a free, web-based, state-wide job posting system that links employers with job seekers. Businesses registered with Talent Connect can post job openings, search resumes of candidates and find local talent.

The Michigan Works! Business Services staff can also assist businesses with:

- Writing job descriptions.
- Accessing information on local labor market trends, wage surveys, workplace accommodation requirements and new-hire tax credits.
- Hosting job fairs to attract qualified job seekers.
- Researching various talent pools to identify potential candidates who match requirements for entry level to executive positions.
- Designing effective interview questions.
- Conducting telephone, video or in-person interviews to pre-screen applicants.
- Using state-of-the-art technology tools, including Interview Stream video system, to streamline the recruiting process and find qualified employees quickly and easily.
- Providing private offices for in-person interviews and conference rooms equipped with LCD projectors for meetings at the Michigan Works! Service Center.
- Providing computers with Micro-

see MICHIGAN WORKS, page 10



### St. Francis of Assisi PARISH

A Proud supporter of Groundcover News

We are invited to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure

Pope Francis (See Luke 6:37-38)

#### Mass Schedule

##### Saturday

5:00 p.m.

##### Sunday

7:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 5:00 p.m. Mass will not be held on Labor Day weekend

St Francis of Assisi Parish  
2250 East Stadium Blvd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 769-2550  
[www.stfrancisa2.com](http://www.stfrancisa2.com)

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[www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)

**Sunday Worship**  
8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.

## Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

7	2	1	3				4	
9					1			7
4				9				
5	7			6			9	
6								5
	1			8			7	2
				3				1
1			4					9
	4				9	8	6	3

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## Cryptoquote:

SLX ZWAM RCM SZ BCJX  
FXWFX ZQS ZV TLCWUX HF  
SZ DAQWUX HWSZ HS, BZEX  
RHSL HS, CWY OZHW SLX  
YCWTX.

– CACW RCSSF

Clue:  $\ominus = \cap$

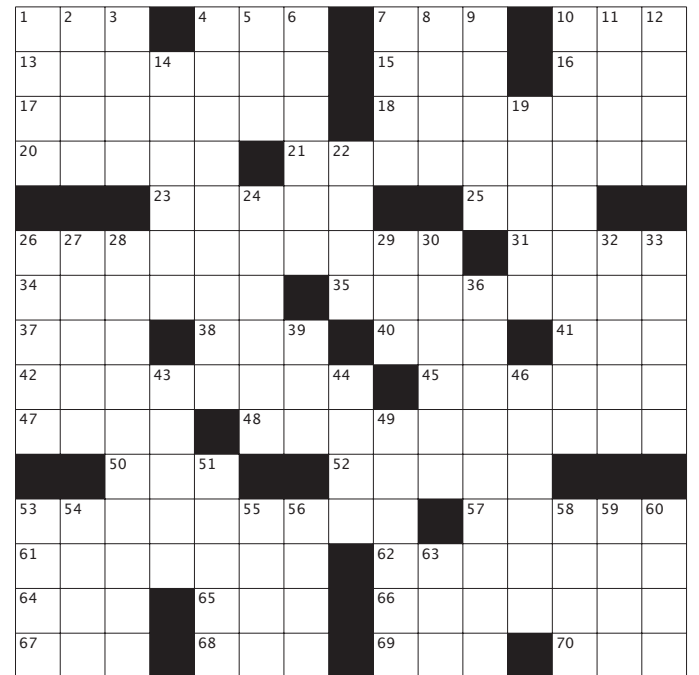
Men of Letters Peter A Collins

### ACROSS

- Goopy ground
- Pied Piper pest
- Pre-A.D. letters
- National econ. yardstick
- Plains tribe member
- Like Abner, Kim, or Wayne
- Stick on a boat?
- Creator of Aslan
- Creator of Roo
- John, Paul, or George (but not Ringo)
- From first hour to sixth hour, maybe
- Barbecue area
- Due + quattro
- Creator of Holden Caulfield
- Tornado response org.
- Selected
- Like a sword, sometimes
- Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- Fed. med. agcy.
- Grand Rapids-to-South Bend dir.
- Toothpaste tube abbr.
- "And so on"
- Pincered insect
- Chinese restaurant pans
- Creator of Lady Chatterley
- Foreman's method of striking, perhaps?
- They're crossed on pirate flags
- Misnamed marsupial
- Injects with Novocain
- Creator of Doctor Moreau
- Creator of Rum Tum Tugger
- Pub pour
- Keystone lawman
- Vienna's home
- Homer Simpson's neighbor
- Pig's pen
- 12th graders
- English cathedral site

### DOWN

- Some desktops



© Peter A Collins (Published via Across Lite)

- Major (the Big Dipper)
- "The Persistence of Memory" painter Salvador
- Unpolished gift
- Hawaiian tuna
- Add at no cost
- Dullsville
- "Later," to Luigi
- "St. \_\_\_ Fire" (1985 movie)
- Oscar winner for "Cactus Flower"
- Comedian Carvey
- Mice, to an owl
- Letter-writing friend
- "\_\_\_ My Heart in San Francisco"
- Gear teeth
- Neatened (up)
- Old Navy alternative
- On account of
- Open-mouthed
- Canadian sentence-enders
- Hemmed again
- Battlefield shout
- "Waste not, want not", for instance
- Cognizance
- Abbr. for Queen Elizabeth
- Online transaction
- "Fantastic Four" actress Jessica
- Outcome
- Main arteries
- Hesitates
- \_\_\_ Academy (online educational site)
- Look like a wolf?
- Ink stain
- Annual cable sports award
- Goopy ground
- Cook, as lobsters
- Stick around
- California's Big \_\_\_

## Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:  
contact@groundcovernews.com  
734-707-9210



## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-665-6149

Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office

### Sunday Worship Times

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Sunday school at 10:15 am

Fellowship Hour follows each service

### September Community Events – Welcome!

- September 10 German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 - 12pm  
\$1 or \$10 dozen
- Sept. 3,10,17,24 Football Parking at Bethlehem  
(proceeds benefit our youth programs)
- September 11 Sunday School Rally Day and  
Blessing of the Backpacks
- September 18 Flu-shot clinic
- September 30 German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 - 12pm  
\$1 or \$10 dozen

VISIT US ON-LINE AT  
www.facebook.com/bethlehemucca2  
www.pinterest.com/bethlehemucca2  
www.youtube.com/user/BethlehemChurchA2



bethlehem-ucc.org

## In the rough – a homeless night

by Keagan Irrer  
Groundcover Contributor

Last spring I went out to one of the homeless camps with a trusted friend who lived in it, intending to spend the night there. It was on the edge of the city, a small camp, only a few tents. It was at least ten minutes' walk, through scrub and gravel, through land that nobody was using. I followed my friend silently in the darkness, trepidation growing with each step.

When I arrived, there was only a ragged sleeping bag for me on the hard ground under the bridge – no tent. My friend didn't have one at the time, either; we were both sleeping in the open. We had the fortune of a rainless night, but it was damp, and still grew cold enough that I would spend much of the night curled in a ball, trying and failing to retain my own warmth.

I had a choice between hard, knobbed ground, and even harder pavement. I would shift back and forth between the two all night, entirely unable to sleep. The ground had little knobby stones that pressed into my skin, delivering their sharp pain anew with each movement of my body.

At about two-thirty in the morning, an argument arose; with the viciousness of



Bridges offer some protection from rain but not the cold or stony ground.

the yelling and the fury of the invective, I wondered if it was wise for me to stay. Apparently someone had made enough noise to awaken someone else, and they were quite displeased. I tried to ignore it, but it was impossible – I believe the entire camp was awoken.

But after about 10 minutes they settled down, and the rest of the night passed uneventfully. I gave up on trying to actually get any sleep; the ground was simply too uncomfortable, and it was getting too cold out. Screwing my eyes shut, and curling myself into the

most comfortable ball I could muster, I waited for dawn.

My friend awoke in relatively good spirits. He'd slept far better than I, being accustomed to the conditions. I was stiff and sore, aching, entirely miserable, but glad to have made it through the night. He listened to some music while having a smoke, saying he would go into town, and I was welcome to continue spending time with him. I, however, decided I'd had enough.

I went home.

But all the way there, I kept thinking: the people I left in the camp could not. They didn't have anywhere to go. Nobody with a choice would live there; the conditions were miserable. According to my friend, the argument between the heroin addicts that I had overheard was not atypical behavior. This camp was completely unorganized, merely a small band of acquaintances scrabbling for the best situation they could find.

A few months later the camp was bulldozed. I often wondered what happened to the inhabitants; my friend was already gone from the place, and he wasn't a particular friend of anyone there. I couldn't forget them, not out of a particular fondness for them, but because of what they represented to me – the human faces behind all of the impersonal, anonymous numbers that I and so many others pored over when analyzing data and doing research on homelessness. I couldn't help but wonder if the people with the power to change those numbers, if the political and community leaders who, somehow, believed that these people deserved their fate, could see those faces as I did – if they lived among the homeless as I did, even briefly, there might finally be hope for them.

## Progress on ending homelessness in Washtenaw County

There is good news on the campaign to end homelessness in Washtenaw County. The rate at which veterans and chronically homeless people are being placed in housing is now greater than the rate at which people are becoming homeless. That is a pre-condition for achieving "functional zero," a term for effectively ending homelessness. While adverse conditions can thrust new people into a homeless condition, the community has the resources to help them in a short amount of time.

Last winter's Point in Time Count, an evening on which volunteers count all the people they can find who are living in shelters and on the streets, showed 342 people experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County that night. Of those, 41 were unsheltered, a decrease of 49 percent from the 2015 count.

There was a 55 percent decrease in the number of homeless families since 2011, although 52 of the 342 people

counted in 2016 were still children. There was a 15 percent decrease from the number of homeless individuals since the 2015 count. However, there still exists a concern about the lack of treatment for mental illness. Of the people counted, 48 percent reported having a serious mental illness. Only 56 percent of these people were living in shelters, and even they are unlikely to receive treatment as most shelters do not have professionals on staff who treat mental illness.

As of June 2016, there were 38 unsheltered veterans in Washtenaw County, with 238 placed in housing since January of 2015. About seven or eight new veterans enter the list each month – largely as a result of discharges from

the VA hospital in Ann Arbor – and approximately 11 veterans are placed in housing each month.

There were 35 chronically homeless people still awaiting housing in June. Since January of 2015, housing was found for 209 chronically homeless people. Of these, 55-60 are living in Miller Manor.

New sources of affordable housing are also on the horizon:

- Washtenaw County is seeking proposals for an affordable housing development on Platt Rd. that will provide about 100 units, some of which will be subsidized housing.
- Ann Arbor revised its housing code to permit Accessory Dwelling Units.

- Work is about two-thirds complete on rehabbing North Maple Estates in Ann Arbor where the unit density is being doubled to 46 units, about 30 percent of which will be supportive housing, with Avalon and Peace Neighborhood providing services on-site.
- By the end of October 2016, 112 units of newly rehabilitated housing in Ypsilanti will be ready for occupancy. Some of these will be reserved for current residents of the Parkridge housing community which is being demolished and rebuilt, with completion expected by the end of 2017. Approximately 22 percent of the 86 units (up from the current total of 80) in Parkridge will be supportive housing and there will be a full-time social worker onsite, the new standard for all Ypsilanti Housing Commission complexes.

## GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

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1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 X 5
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 X 6.5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	5 X 14 or 10 X 6.5
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10 X 14

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Additional 20% off ads with coupons

## Cross Artist

by La Shawn Courtwright  
Groundcover Vendor #56

I was there for you  
why, how do you choose not  
to be here for me?

This was our second try  
Once again you lied

You've proven to be contrary  
to what you say  
and proved you'll always  
be a cheat

I almost cried,  
but instead

I dried my eyes  
See ...  
I'm not the same woman you met initially

All you will do  
is bring me down

Trying to make a go  
of me and you

I'm choosing not to frown

You see  
I've decided to pick up  
and wear my crown  
I'm more valuable  
than that you've dealt me

You are out of my sight,  
out of my mind  
and of your bullsh\*t  
I'm free!

No more being hung out  
to dry

What was I thinking??

For that question  
there's not one  
reasonable alibi

I know why you wanted me

It's because my heart is true  
I refuse to let you  
beat it up and turn  
it black and blue

Thank GOD  
once and for all  
I'M DONE WITH YOU!!

## Michigan Works!

continued from page 7

soft Business products, printers and copiers for use at Michigan Works!

The scarlet and gray color scheme that dominates the Michigan Works! office in Ypsilanti bears the fingerprints of its director, Shamar Herron. It is one of the subtler changes implemented by this former Buckeye basketball player during his five-year tenure. The improved emphasis on customer service and responsiveness to customer feedback is more obvious.

Herron draws on his own background as he encourages people to take the long view when evaluating employment options and recognize the opportunity to rise up the ranks. He graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Education Sciences, a compromise major that allowed him to graduate in four years – a priority, as he had a family to support – despite changing majors and playing collegiate basketball. Lacking a teaching certificate, he was unable to find regular employment.

A Detroit native, Herron returned to Michigan and signed up for temporary work with Manpower. They noticed he had taken biology courses and placed him at a University of Michigan (U-M) lab as a DNA sequencing technician. He was eventually hired by U-M and then cut back to half-time there so he could take a paid flexible-hours internship working for Washtenaw County Administrator Bob Guenzel and the County Commissioners. He scheduled himself to be in the office when the most influential people had appointments to see his boss. He researched them and their projects and then chatted them up as he got them coffee.

One of those people, SPARK co-founder Mike Finney, was intrigued to learn that Herron had experience working in a lab. Finney had millions of dollars of equipment that had been donated to SPARK by Pfizer and he needed someone knowledgeable to liquidate it. He hired Herron who went on to help start SPARK East after a year of leasing the medical equipment to startup companies. He was then tapped to be on

SPARK's business development team.

When SPARK leadership changed, Herron withdrew. Following a halcyon period as a stay-at-home dad, he worked in the Detroit schools helping misguided kids. He was then hired as the Director of Washtenaw County Michigan Works!

Now that Michigan Works! has consolidated five counties into one agency, Herron is a Deputy Director who works primarily out of the Ypsilanti office. Herron supports the Governor-mandated consolidation which removed the Ypsilanti office from the authority of Washtenaw County Government. The combined agency, Michigan Works! Southeast, is funded by the federal government and subject to mandates in the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, but is administered by the State of Michigan Talent Investment Agency.

It now has more money to work with and more successful programs to draw from. The ability of job seekers to connect remotely is an innovation Herron is especially enthusiastic about. He sees it as crucial for rural residents without vehicles and no access to public transportation. Herron expects that the Washtenaw County pre-release job seeking program run with the Sheriff's Department will be replicated elsewhere and is eager to see Jackson County's youth programs implemented here.

There are certainly challenges, too, as three different systems need to merge and eligibility income levels for subsidies need to be standardized. The administrative offices are now located in Hillsdale, rather than next door. But even as they work through the integration, local job seekers and business remain the top priority at the Michigan Works! office in Ypsilanti.

### The Michigan Works! Harriet Street Center

304 Harriet Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

**Phone:** 734-714-9814

**Hours:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday/  
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## Telling my story: a journey of sacrifice

by Alice Newell  
Groundcover Contributor

My story is not foreign to those who have faced challenges. Adjustments can affect your spirit, soul, emotions, life perspective and so many other things as your drive for survival can drain your energy. Situations can quickly shift from bad to good or vice-versa in an instant. There's nothing permanent, especially when you're on a fixed income. State programs make an individual account for each crumb that enters their home. Through this experience, I've learned that with every step of freedom there are tearful sacrifices.

It was in 2010 where the journey of sacrifice began. My mother had died. My brother, who helped me care for our ailing parents, had returned to Georgia. My children and I had to learn how to survive on a monthly social security income and the Section 8 program for rent. Two teenaged girls depended on me to cobble together our remaining resources to create a manageable living for a household of three.

The devastating blow came when our food stamps were cut off. My oldest daughter, who is a type-2 diabetic, was affected greatly by this decision. She had certain dietary needs to attain a nutritionally-balanced meal that agreed with the medicine her doctor had prescribed for her.

Stressed beyond measure, I hunted for jobs, but due to physical limitations, I could only apply for temporary positions. I worked as



Alice Newell leaves no stone unturned in her struggle for a healthy life for herself and her daughters, despite a lack of resources.

a home-health aide for a while until I injured my left ankle. I tore two tendons, which matched my previously-injured right ankle from a long time ago. Standing and walking for long periods of time became difficult. Delays in work hindered our family's financial progress. My girls had a hard time concentrating in school during these tough times.

None of us knew how to drive so we depended heavily on public transportation to get to and from our destinations. Tensed to an extreme, with only our faith in God to cope, "seek and ye shall find" became our motto. Our lim-

ited budget was extended to its capacity and being cut off of food stamps made things worse.

In September of 2014, my doctor diagnosed me too as a type-2 diabetic, another dilemma to add to our circumstances. Then in November of 2015 my youngest daughter's pediatrician announced that she had the same ailment. Our family had to adjust to a new lifestyle concerning our health. Shuffling priorities to make things work

with what little we had, became a daily chore. Hopping from bus to bus, we travelled from food bank to food bank to get enough nourishment to make a meal. Being diabetics, we must be careful of what we consume, particularly starches and sugars. But a family in need cannot afford to be overly selective with donated goods, and must rather receive them with gratitude. We had to learn how to make a well-balanced meal out of what we had to balance a limited budget.

Finally, in May of 2016, a pivotal breakthrough occurred in our nutritional crisis. After numerous attempts of re-applying for food benefits, our food stamps case was reopened. We are eating healthier and have started an exercise routine of walking and swimming. I also participate in a nutritional class to learn how to prepare a well-balanced meal on a budget.

We are just an example of the many families who encountered an economic, medical and nutritional crisis due to the government's shuffling. Five years of pain has paid off with one hurdle overcome – though no doubt there will be many others to conquer in the future. A family's faith cannot be broken as long as they stick together.

## Deaf discrimination

continued from page 5

2016.. If Forsey wants to see a movie in theaters, he has to drive an hour to another movie theater. This is unequal treatment.

Forsey, along with the rest of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community in America, has the right under the ADA to have equal access to the local movie theater so that he may participate in the quintessential American tradition of enjoying a bucket of freshly-buttered popcorn at the movies with his friends

and family. When that right to equal access is infringed upon and the offending entity fails to comply with the law despite several requests to mediate the situation, then legal action has to be taken to assert compliance with the law.

The parties are settling the lawsuit and Loeks is expected to make its theaters accessible to deaf and hard of hearing movie goers through closed captioning. Loeks Theaters is also expected to reach out to the local deaf and hard of hearing community to welcome them as movie patrons.



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## Cryptoquote Solution

The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.

– Alan Watts

7	2	1	3	5	6	9	4	8
9	6	5	8	4	1	2	3	7
4	8	3	7	9	2	5	1	6
5	7	8	2	6	3	1	9	4
6	9	2	1	7	4	3	8	5
3	1	4	9	8	5	6	7	2
8	5	9	6	3	7	4	2	1
1	3	6	4	2	8	7	5	9
2	4	7	5	1	9	8	6	3

1	M	U	D	4	R	A	T	7	B	C	E	10	G	11	D	12	P
13	A	R	A	14	P	A	H	O	15	L	I	L	16	O	A	R	
17	C	S	L	E	W	I	S	18	A	A	M	I	L	N	E		
20	S	A	I	N	T	21	S	C	H	O	O	L	D	A	Y		
				23	P	A	T	I	O			25	S	E	I		
26	J	D	S	28	A	L	I	N	G	29	E	R	30		31	F	E
34	C	U	L	L	E	D		35	S	H	E	A	T	H	E	D	
37	R	E	A		38	N	I	H		40	S	S	W		41	A	D
42	E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A		45	E	A	R	W	I	G	
47	W	O	K	S		48	D	H	L	49	A	W	R	E	N	C	E
				50	J	A	B			52	B	O	N	E	S		
53	K	O	A	L	A	B	E	A	R		57	N	U	M	B	S	
61	H	G	W	E	L	L	S			62	T	S	E	L	I	O	T
64	A	L	E			65	K	O	P		66	A	U	S	T	R	I
67	N	E	D			68	S	T	Y		69	S	R	S		70	E

**by Elizabeth Bauman**  
**Groundcover Contributor**

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup butter (2 sticks), softened to room temperature
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2½ cups flour
- 1 cup shredded, sweetened coconut
- 1 cup quick oats

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream together sugar, eggs, butter and vanilla in large bowl until light and fluffy. Mix the dry ingredients and add to larger bowl. Mix until combined. Place by tablespoon onto baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake for 9-11 minutes, until cookies are lightly browned. Cool slightly and remove from baking sheet.

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It's back to school time again!

But you taught me every day is a school day. Are you messing with me again?

Ah, you are learning your lessons Little One. Why do you think I am showing you this large freshly-caught chipmunk?

To belittle me by comparison with the inferiority of those I caught earlier?

I hadn't even realized that, though you're right, mine is bigger than both of yours together.

So what's your point then?

If you get too fat and lazy, and ignore your lessons over the summer, you could end up like these chipmunks.

You sure have an interesting approach to teaching, mom.